

## House Resolution 486

By: Representatives Carson of the 46<sup>th</sup>, Fleming of the 121<sup>st</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, and Williamson of the 115<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Shane Stephens, Consul General of Ireland; and for other
- 2 purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, Shane Stephens, Consul General of Ireland, Atlanta, has a long and
- 4 distinguished record of service to the Republic of Ireland; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Consul General Stephens assumed his post in Atlanta in July, 2015, as the
- 6 second Irish Consul General for the U.S. Southeastern region, responsible for Georgia,
- 7 Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee; and
- 8 WHEREAS, since joining Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 2001, Mr.
- 9 Stephens has served at Ireland's Embassies to Tanzania, the Holy See, the European Union,
- 10 Nigeria, and Malaysia; and
- 11 WHEREAS, immediately prior to his current post, while working as Assistant Chief of
- 12 Protocol for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Dublin, he was responsible for
- 13 arranging many of President Michael D. Higgins' visits abroad and incoming Presidential
- 14 visits to Ireland; and
- 15 WHEREAS, approximately 800,000 Georgians proudly claim Irish heritage and a shared
- 16 history that began less than a year after James Oglethorpe and the first settlers founded the
- 17 City of Savannah in 1733 and when the first dedicated Irish settlement in Georgia was
- 18 established in the 1760s in what is now Jefferson County; and
- 19 WHEREAS, with increasing economic and academic links between the State of Georgia and
- 20 Ireland, this historic relationship continues to thrive with the thoughtful stewardship of
- 21 Consul General Stephens; and

22 WHEREAS, he is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for  
23 integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness; and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this  
25 remarkable and distinguished diplomat be appropriately recognized.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
27 the members of this body commend Shane Stephens, Consul General of Ireland, Atlanta, for  
28 his gracious service on behalf of the Republic of Ireland and recognize the deep bonds of  
29 commerce, history, and friendship between the State of Georgia and the Republic of Ireland.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
31 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Shane  
32 Stephens, Consul General of Ireland, Atlanta.